

Claims

- [c1] A disposable, recloseable lid comprising:
- a cap sized to overlie and substantially cover the open top of a cup and having a drink opening formed therein;
 - a mounting ring connected to the cap for mounting the cap to a cup; and
 - a tab closure comprising a stem and a drink plug, the stem extending from one of the mounting ring and cap and having a length sufficient to permit the drink plug to overlie the drink opening, and the drink plug sized to be received within the drink opening to close the drink opening;
- wherein the user can open and close the lid by removing or inserting the drink plug from the drink opening and the cap, mounting ring, and tab are formed from a plastic sheet.
- [c2] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 1 wherein the cap, mounting ring, and tab are formed from the same plastic sheet.
- [c3] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 1 wherein the drink plug has a portion with a dimension greater than or equal to the drink opening such that the drink plug snap-fits within the drink opening.
- [c4] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 1 wherein the drink opening comprises a well and the drink plug is received within the well when the lid is closed.
- [c5] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 4 wherein the well and the drink plug are sized such that the drink plug is press-fit within the well.
- [c6] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 5 wherein the well comprises a peripheral wall extending interiorly from the drink opening, and the drink plug has a peripheral wall that is complementary to the well peripheral wall such that at least a portion of the well and drink plug peripheral walls contact when the drink plug is inserted in the well for the press-fit connection.
- [c7] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 6 wherein the well further comprises a bottom wall extending from the peripheral wall and in which is formed a lower opening, and the drink plug has a complementary bottom wall

from which the drink plug peripheral wall extends, and the well and drink plug bottom walls cooperate to limit the insertion of the drink plug into the well.

- [c8] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 1 and further comprising a drink plug holder for holding the drink plug in a stored position when the lid is in the open position.
- [c9] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 8 wherein the drink plug holder comprises at least one finger extending from one of the cap and mounting ring and overlying a portion of the tab closure to hold the drink plug in a stored position.
- [c10] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 8 wherein the drink plug holder comprises a recess in the cap and sized to receive the drink plug and hold the drink plug in a stored position.
- [c11] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 8 wherein the drink plug holder comprises a projection on one of the cap and tab closure and a complementary recess on the other of the cap and tab closure such that the projection is received within the recess and hold the drink plug in a stored position.
- [c12] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 1 wherein the tab closure is integrally formed with one of the cap and mounting ring.
- [c13] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 12 wherein a tear guide is formed in the lid at an interface between the tab closure and the one of the cap and mounting ring, wherein the tab closure can be separated from the one of cap and mounting ring by pulling on the tab closure to tear the lid along the tear guide.
- [c14] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 13 wherein the tear guide extends along only a portion of the interface between the tab closure and the one of the cap and mounting ring such that the tab closure is not completely separated from the one of the cap and mounting ring.
- [c15] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 14 wherein the tear guide

terminates in a tear stop.

- [c16] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 13 wherein the tear guide comprises a series of alternating ridges and valleys.
- [c17] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 13 wherein the tear guide comprises a series of spaced slits.
- [c18] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 17 wherein the tear guide comprises a reduced thickness portion.
- [c19] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 18 wherein the reduced thickness portion is discontinuous.
- [c20] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 18 wherein the reduced thickness portion is a score line.
- [c21] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 1 wherein the tab closure is mechanically coupled to the cap.
- [c22] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 21 wherein the tab is removably coupled to the cap.
- [c23] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 21 wherein one of the cap and tab closure has a recess and the other of the cap and tab closure has a projection sized to be received within the recess to mechanically couple the tab closure to the cap.
- [c24] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 23 wherein the projection is received within the recess in a press-fit relationship.
- [c25] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 24 wherein recess comprises a peripheral rim defining an open top for the recess, and the projection has a portion with a dimension greater than or equal to the open top to form the press-fit relationship when the projection is received within the open top.
- [c26] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 25 wherein the projection has a peripheral wall and the recess has a peripheral wall, wherein at least a portion

of the peripheral walls abut when the projection is received within the recess to form the press-fit relationship.

- [c27] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 26 wherein each of the peripheral walls has a negative draft.
- [c28] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 27 wherein the peripheral walls have the same draft.
- [c29] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 28 wherein the peripheral walls have different drafts.
- [c30] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 26 wherein the drink plug has a portion with a dimension greater than or equal to the drink opening such that the drink plug snap-fits within the drink opening.
- [c31] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 26 wherein the drink opening comprises a well and the drink plug is received within the well when the lid is closed.
- [c32] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 31 wherein the well and the drink plug are sized such that the drink plug is press-fit within the well.
- [c33] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 32 wherein the well comprises a peripheral wall extending interiorly from the drink opening, and the drink plug has a peripheral wall that is complementary to the well peripheral wall such that at least a portion of the well and drink plug peripheral walls contact when the drink plug is inserted in the well for the press-fit connection.
- [c34] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 23 wherein the projection is a mounting plug sized to be press-fit within the recess.
- [c35] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 34 wherein the stem connects the drink plug to the mounting plug.
- [c36] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 34 wherein the tab closure further comprises a hinge connecting the mounting plug to the stem.

- [c37] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 34 wherein the drink plug includes a lift tab for aid in the removal of the drink plug from the drink opening.
- [c38] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 34 wherein the periphery of the mounting plug is greater than or equal to the periphery of the recess such that the mounting plug is snap-fit within the recess.
- [c39] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 34 wherein the recess is located on the cap and the mounting plug is located on the tab closure.
- [c40] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 39 wherein the recess has a bottom wall and the mounting plug has a bottom wall, which is spaced above the recess bottom wall when the mounting plug is received within the recess to define a chamber therebetween.
- [c41] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 40 and further comprising a vent opening formed in the recess bottom wall and fluidly connected to the chamber.
- [c42] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 41 wherein the mounting plug has a vent opening fluidly connected to the chamber.
- [c43] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 42 wherein the mounting plug vent opening is sized such that liquid cannot span the opening through the inherent surface tension of the liquid.
- [c44] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 39 wherein the recess and mounting plug have corresponding inset portions and the stem connects to the mounting plug at the inset portion.
- [c45] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 44 and further comprising a hinge connecting the stem to the mounting plug.
- [c46] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 44 wherein the recess and mounting plug have complementary peripheral walls that abut each other when the mounting plug is received within the recess.

- [c47] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 46 wherein the mounting plug comprises a peripheral lip, the recess comprises a complementary peripheral ledge, and the lip rests on the ledge when the mounting plug is received within the recess.

- [c48] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 39 wherein the cap is dome-shaped and comprises an upper surface located above the mounting ring and in which the recess is formed.

- [c49] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 48 wherein the cap further comprises a wall at least partially encircling the upper surface and terminating in a top edge in which the drink opening is located.

- [c50] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 49 wherein the drink opening is at a higher elevation than the recess.

- [c51] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 49 wherein the width of the wall is reduced at the opposite ends of the drink opening.

- [c52] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 49 wherein the cap further comprises a drink plug holder for holding the drink plug in a stored position when the lid is in the open position.

- [c53] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 52 wherein the drink plug holder comprises a recess in the cap that is sized to receive the drink plug and hold the drink plug in a stored position.

- [c54] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 53 wherein the drink plug holder further comprises at least one finger extending into the drink plug holder recess and overlying a portion of the tab closure to hold the drink plug in a stored position.

- [c55] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 49 wherein the stem connects the drink plug to the mounting plug.

- [c56] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 55 wherein the tab closure further comprises a hinge connecting the mounting plug to the stem.

- [c57] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 56 wherein the drink plug includes a lift tab for aid in the removal of the drink plug from the drink opening.
- [c58] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 57 wherein the periphery of the mounting plug is greater than or equal to the periphery of the recess such that the mounting plug is snap-fit within the recess.
- [c59] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 58 wherein the recess is located on the cap and the mounting plug is located on the tab closure.
- [c60] A disposable, recloseable lid comprising:
a cap sized to overlie and substantially cover the open top of a cup and having a drink opening and a mounting recess formed therein;
a mounting ring connected to the cap for mounting the cap to a cup; and
a tab closure comprising a mounting plug and a drink plug connected by a stem, the mounting plug sized to be received within the mounting recess, and the drink plug sized to be received within the drink opening wherein the user can open and close the lid by removing or inserting the drink plug from the drink opening.
- [c61] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the cap is dome-shaped and comprises an upper surface located above the mounting ring and in which the recess is formed.
- [c62] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 61 wherein the cap further comprises a wall at least partially encircling the upper surface and terminating in a top edge in which the drink opening is located.
- [c63] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 62 wherein the drink opening is at a higher elevation than the recess.
- [c64] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 62 wherein the width of the wall is reduced at the opposite ends of the drink opening.
- [c65] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 62 wherein the cap further comprises a drink plug holder for holding the drink plug in a stored position

when the lid is in the open position.

- [c66] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 65 wherein the drink plug holder comprises a recess in the cap that is sized to receive the drink plug and hold the drink plug in a stored position.
- [c67] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 66 wherein the drink plug holder further comprises at least one finger extending into the drink plug holder recess and overlying a portion of the tab closure to hold the drink plug in a stored position.
- [c68] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the tab closure further comprises a hinge connecting the mounting plug to the stem.
- [c69] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the drink plug includes a lift tab for aid in the removal of the drink plug from the drink opening.
- [c70] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the periphery of the mounting plug is greater than or equal to the periphery of the recess such that the mounting plug is snap-fit within the recess.
- [c71] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the recess has a bottom wall and the mounting plug has a bottom wall, which is spaced above the recess bottom wall when the mounting plug is received within the recess to define a chamber therebetween.
- [c72] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 71 and further comprising a vent opening formed in the recess bottom wall and fluidly connected to the chamber.
- [c73] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 72 wherein the mounting plug has a vent opening fluidly connected to the chamber.
- [c74] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 73 wherein the mounting plug vent opening is sized such that liquid cannot span the opening through the inherent surface tension of the liquid.

- [c75] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the recess and mounting plug have corresponding inset portions and the stem connects to the mounting plug at the inset portion.

- [c76] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the cap, mounting ring, and tab are formed from a plastic sheet and have a substantially uniform thickness.

- [c77] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the drink plug has a portion with a dimension greater than or equal to the drink opening such that the drink plug snap-fits within the drink opening.

- [c78] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the drink opening comprises a well and the drink plug is received within the well when the lid is closed.

- [c79] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the well and the drink plug are sized such that the drink plug is press-fit within the well.

- [c80] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the tab is removably coupled to the cap.

- [c81] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 60 wherein the mounting ring defines a peripheral channel sized to receive the rim of a cup.

- [c82] The disposable, recloseable lid according to claim 1 wherein the mounting ring defines a peripheral channel sized to receive the rim of a cup.